

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A longitudinally extending intrafocal plate for securing bone fractures, said intrafocal plate comprising ~~consisting of~~ a flat, elongated intrafocal plate element having a surface at one end thereof defining a top and a bottom and a leading end and a trailing end and sized to overlay a fracture site, and having a longitudinally extending intrafocal resilient body element secured with the intrafocal plate element adjacent to but spaced apart from the trailing end of the surface of the plate element so that the leading end of the surface of the plate element extends above the location at which the resilient body element is secured to the surface of the plate element and so as to define an overhanging heel between the location at which the resilient body element is secured to the surface of the plate element and the trailing end of the surface, the overhanging heel extending downwardly below the location at which the resilient body element is secured to the surface of the plate element, wherein the heel serves to help stabilize the fracture site, the resilient body element being formed so as to extend generally in a lengthwise direction of the surface in a sinuous shape depending downwardly and outwardly from the bottom of the surface and wherein the other end of the resilient body element defines a pin element.

2. (Previously Presented) An intrafocal plate according to claim 1, wherein a shoulder is defined between the surface and the one end of the body element connected thereto.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) An intrafocal plate according to claim 1, wherein the surface defines one or more apertures therein.

5. (Currently Amended) An intrafocal plate for securing bone fractures, said intrafocal plate ~~comprising consisting of~~ a flat, elongated intrafocal plate element having a surface at one end thereof defining a top and a bottom and a leading end and a trailing end and sized to overlay a fracture site, and having a longitudinally extending intrafocal resilient body element integral to the surface adjacent to but spaced apart from the trailing end of the surface of the plate element so that the leading end of the surface of the plate element extends above the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and so as to define an overhanging heel between the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and the trailing end of the surface, the overhanging heel extending downwardly below the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element wherein the heel serves to help stabilize the fracture site, and the other end of the body element defining a pin, the intrafocal plate including one or more screws for insertion through one or more apertures defined in the surface of the plate element, the resilient body element defining a substantially sinuous shape according to a side elevation view of the resilient body element and a substantially straight shape according to a top elevation view of the resilient body element.

6. (Currently Amended) A longitudinally extending intrafocal plate for securing metaphyseal bone fractures, said intrafocal plate ~~comprising consisting of~~ a flat, elongated intrafocal plate element having a surface at one end thereof with one or more apertures therein and defining a top and a bottom and a leading end and a trailing end and sized to overlay a fracture site, at least two screws extending through the flat, elongated intrafocal plate, and a longitudinally extending intrafocal resilient body element affixed to and depending from the trailing end of the surface so that the body element forms an acute angle with the surface and extends generally in the lengthwise direction of the surface, the body element being adjacent to but spaced apart from the trailing end of the surface of the plate element so that the leading end of the surface of the plate element extends above the location at which the resilient body element is

affixed to the surface of the plate element and so as to define an overhanging heel between the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and the trailing end of the surface, the overhanging heel extending downwardly below the location at which the resilient body element is affixed to the surface of the plate element wherein the heel serves to help stabilize the fracture site, the body element defining a shoulder at one end at the juncture of the resilient body element and the surface and a pin at the other end of the body element, the resilient body element having a sinuous shape orthogonal to the surface of the plate element, wherein the body element has a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, wherein the first portion curves away from the plate element, the second portion curves toward the plate element and the third portion curves away from the plate element.

7.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended)      An intrafocal plate for stabilizing a fracture site comprising:

a plate element having a first end and a second end; and

a body element extending downwardly and outwardly from the plate element in a first plane, the body element having a sinuous shape in the first plane and being connected between the first end and the second end of the plate element, wherein the body element has a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, wherein the first portion curves away from the plate element, the second portion curves toward the plate element and the third portion curves away from the plate element;

wherein the second end of the plate element stabilizes the fracture site.

22. (Previously Presented)      The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the second end of the plate element prevents over reduction of the fracture site.

23. (Currently Amended) The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the body element further comprises a fourth portion, wherein the fourth portion curves toward the plate element in the first plane.

24. (Previously Presented) The intrafocal plate of claim 23, wherein the first portion of the body element forms an acute angle with the trailing end of the elongated plate element.

25. (Previously Presented) The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the second end of the plate element extends adjacent to a portion of the body element and maintains the plate element proximate the fracture site.

26. (Previously Presented) The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the plate element is securable to the fracture site with at least one screw.

27-36. (Canceled)

37. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the body element has a substantially straight shape in a second plane that is orthogonal to the first plane.

38. (New) An intrafocal plate for securing bone fractures comprising:

an elongate plate element defining a leading ending, a trailing end, an intermediate location between the leading and trailing ends, an overhanging heel toward the trailing end configured to prevent over reduction of a fracture and to stabilize the intrafocal plate when inserted into a fracture site of a bone, a top surface, and a bottom surface that is configured to engage an outer surface of a bone; and

a resilient body element formed as an integral, single piece with the elongate plate element and extending downwardly from the bottom surface of the elongate plate element and in a lengthwise direction relative to the elongate plate element beyond the terminal end of the resilient plate

element, the resilient body extending from the intermediate location of the elongate plate element such that the overhanging heel of the elongate plate element is located between the resilient body element and the trailing end of the elongate plate element.

39. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 38, wherein the resilient body element has a sinuous shape in a plane orthogonal to the bottom surface of the elongate plate element, wherein the body element has a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, wherein the first portion curves away from the plate element, the second portion curves toward the plate element and the third portion curves away from the plate element.

40. (New) The intrafocal plate element of claim 38, wherein the resilient body element has a substantially straight shape in a plane substantially parallel to the bottom surface of the elongate plate element.